



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section

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Trial Results in Multiple Count Conviction of Leader of a Psuedo-Religious Sect. Following a three week jury trial, on January 23, 2004, Defendant Dwight York was convicted on ten counts, including RICO(18 U.S.C. §1962(c)), RICO conspiracy(18 U.S.C. §1962(d)), conspiracy(18 U.S.C. §371), three counts of transporting minors in interstate commerce for the purpose of criminal sexual activity (18 U.S.C. §2423(a)), one count of travel in interstate commerce with the intent to engage in criminal sexual activity with minors (18 U.S.C. §2423(b)), and three counts of structuring cash transactions (31 U.S.C. §324(a)(3)).

York, also known as Isa Muhammad, Isa Al Haadi Al Mahdi, and Dr. Malachi Z. York, the leader of the United Nation of Nuwaubian Moors (UNNM), was found guilty of committing a pattern of racketeering activity, along with several unindicted co-conspirators, in which the enterprise transported minors in interstate commerce from New York to Georgia, and from Georgia to Florida, for the purpose of engaging in criminal sexual activity, and structured cash transactions—all for the purpose of providing York with power, sex with children and money. York utilized his power as the leader of the organization to gain and to maintain access to children.

York molested and sexually abused countless minor aged children within his organization, fourteen of whom testified for the prosecution at trial. York moved, or caused to be moved, children from Sullivan County, New York, to Putnam County, Georgia, and from Georgia to Orange County, Florida, for the purpose of continuing the sexual molestation of children in his

organization. York also used adult female members of his group, whom he had also previously molested when they were children, to bring younger children to him for unlawful sexual purposes.

At sentencing, which has not yet been scheduled, York faces a total statutory maximum potential penalty of 135 years imprisonment (18 U.S.C. §1962(c)-20 years; 18 U.S.C. §1962(d)-20 years; 18 U.S.C. §371-5 years; 3 counts 18 U.S.C. §2423(a)-15 years each; 18 U.S.C. §2423(b)-15 years; 3 counts 31 U.S.C. §5324(a)(3)-10 years each). Additionally, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §2253, the jury awarded the United States forfeiture of York's interest in property utilized in the commission of the sex offenses, including 440 acres of property located in Eatonton, Georgia, and a residence located in Athens, Georgia.

York has been detained since his arrest May 8, 2002. The case was prosecuted by Maxwell Wood, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, AUSA Richard S. Moultrie, and CEOS Deputy Chief Stephanie D. Thacker. The case was investigated by FBI Agents Joan Cronier and Jalaine Ward and IRS agents Stan Lee and Garr Holland.